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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with regard to the illegitimate and illegal unilateral sanctions, announced on 25 October 2007 by the officials of the United States of America, against certain nationals and national institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to state the following:

The said illegal unilateral measures against certain Iranian nationals and military, financial and other national institutions, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is an important part of Iran's national army and defence system, is the latest example of the contempt of the United States for the basic principles of international law and its unrelenting hostile policies against the Iranian nation, which have taken on perilous new dimensions. Indeed, Iran has been experiencing United States sanctions for the past three decades, but has never given in to United States hegemony and coercion. If history is any indication, the new sanctions imposed by the United States will face the same fate.

Undoubtedly, labelling baseless allegations against sovereign nations and their national institutions and imposing unilateral sanctions against them is against the fundamental provisions of international law and basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of respect for the sovereignty and political independence of States and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. It also runs counter to various well-known

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international legal frameworks and United Nations resolutions that strongly reject unilateral measures and underline, inter alia, that "no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights". These unacceptable unilateral measures also contravene general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant United Nations resolutions and other documents, and violate some of the basic principles of international human rights, in particular the right to development.

Moreover, the most recent unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States against Iranian nationals and national institutions put on display yet another example of growing resort by the United States to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures, as well as its unjustifiable unilateral evaluation of the conduct of other States as a means of exerting pressure on a sovereign country for purely politically motivated and ill-intended policies. The tendency of the United States to promulgate and implement unilateral measures is clearly undermining the international community's desire and striving for the promotion, the preservation and the strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process through the United Nations, and signifies the urgent need for the international community to collectively address and redress such a destructive approach.

To justify its illegal behaviour, and as a matter of utmost irresponsibility, the United States has resorted extensively to a baseless defamatory misinformation campaign, vilification and hostile propaganda, and has disseminated false and fictitious allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its national institutions. The absurdity of the allegations of the United States against Iran and its nationals and national institutions, on the basis of which the said unilateral measures have been imposed, is so obvious that it requires no explanation.

The so-called proliferation concerns are raised at a time when the IAEA Director General's public statements and reports attest to the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme; the United States has failed to provide the slightest evidence in this regard despite its misleading propaganda campaign; Iran has demonstrated the purely peaceful nature of its nuclear programme through complete transparency and full cooperation with the IAEA; and the recent cooperation between Iran and the IAEA has received worldwide support and appreciation. Equally baseless is the United States allegation against Iran with regard to the so-called support for terrorism. Iran has always rejected and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, while being itself a victim of acts of terrorism perpetrated by terrorist groups created, financed and supported by the United States.

It is evident that the continuation of this kind of irresponsible unilateral policies and arrogant behaviour by the United States Government will set an alarming precedent with far-reaching adverse implications detrimental to the cause of the rule of law and international peace and security, for which the United States alone must bear full responsibility. Therefore, these irresponsible policies and practices must be universally and unequivocally rejected.

The peace-loving Iranian nation, which seeks a world free from weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, considers the current United States warmongering a threat against not just Iran, but the whole world community.

Without a doubt, the United States administration is singularly responsible for the current turmoil in its relations with the rest of the world. The considerable loss of United States global prestige is but the consequence of its unwise and hegemonic policies and behaviour. Blaming others for its failure in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the aim of silencing and deceiving domestic critics, cannot exonerate the United States administration from its sinister policies and actions in those countries.

Indeed, the United Nations, and particularly the Secretary-General of the Organization, has a fundamental responsibility to discharge in rejecting these unilateral measures and in taking all necessary and appropriate steps to bring these policies and practices to a halt.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 11, 52 (a), 70, 86 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative